NPK-Complexes (in lakh tonnes)

States	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	11.50	8.94	8.83
Karnataka	5.67	4.57	4.52
Kerala	0.98	0.91	0.89
Tamil Nadu	1.75	1.29	1.28

The Government of India has been leaving no stone unturned to ensure that full requirement of various States is met as per temporal phasing projected by the States. Barring complexes where the entire requirement is met by indigenous production, imports have been restored to, in order to fulfil the demand.

Poor harvesting and mismanagement

26. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one third of India's total crops go waste because of poor harvesting/mismanagement by concerned officers;

(b) if so, the actual figures about post harvest losses during the last three years, indicating whether any authoritative estimates of such losses are available with concerned Government Department; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry proposes to call a meeting of State Agriculture Ministers to keep strict watch on such losses/mismanagement including stern anti-hording measures to keep check on day-by-day rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No such information is available in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on wastage due to mismanagement by concerned officers. However, the post-harvest losses including storage losses are estimated to by around 7% in foodgrains, 30 per cent in fruits and vegetables and 10% of variable spices due to lack of proper post-harvest infrastructural facilities as per the millennium study conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

No specific study regarding wastage of foodstuff has been conducted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. However, a High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storage and Storage constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, in the year 1999, had estimated that 25 to 30% of fruits and vegetables and 8 to 10% of foodgrains are lost annually due to lack of post-harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities etc.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is always in touch with the State/ Union Territory Government for bringing out different reforms in agriculture including agricultural

marketing for minimizing the losses and controlling anti hoarding measures through implementation of control orders promulgated by States under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act in certain essential commodities.

In order to protect the losses of foodgrains and fruits and vegetables at different stages of marketing, the Government of India has initiated action on agricultural marketing reforms by bringing amendments in the APMC Act on the lines of Model Act circulated to all States during 2003. The emphasis has been given to reduce the marketing channel by bringing direct marketing, contract farming and to improve the marketing infrastructure by involving private sector in development of infrastructure and setting up of markets with modern physical infrastructural facilities. The Ministry has also implemented capital investment subsidy scheme of Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, Rural Godown Scheme respectively for development of marketing infrastructure providing, storage facilities for farmers and other market participants respectively. The market information is important for taking appropriate marketing decisions by the farmers. The Ministry has also launched a Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET) since March, 2000 for dissemination of market information to farmers. The above measures initiated by the Govt. of India will facilitate reduction in post harvest losses of agricultural produce.

National Live-stock Policy

27. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to boost the capacity in the live-stock sector to increase growth in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features of the National Live-stock Policy *Inter-alia* indicating the time-frame within which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The salient features of the proposed National Livestock policy are as under:

(i) Enhancing productivity in livestock and removal of constraints which hinder productivity;

(ii) To double the availability of animal protein from the present level of 10 gm. per capita per day to 20 gm per capita per day within a decade.

(iii) To improve understanding of socio economic problems relating to small holding systems and development of appropriate extension modules for transfer of technology for small farm production.

(vi) Formulation of breeding policy for each livestock species aiming at qualitative and quantitative improvement in livestock products.

(v) To provide quality assurance in the entire food chain to meet international standards concerning quality, hygiene and food safety.